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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/725,607	11/29/2000	Masayuki Homma	CANO:015	1179

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EXAMINER

KNAPP, JUSTIN R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2182

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/725;607

Applicant(s)

HOMMA, MASAYUKI

Examiner

Justin Knapp

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 June 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Papers Submitted*

1. It is hereby acknowledged that the following papers have been received and placed of record in the file: Extension of time as received 06/13/03.

### *Claim Objections*

2. Claims 1, 7, 13, 17, and 23 are objected to because of the following informalities: Each claim states, "a plurality of number of times". This phrase is redundant. Examiner suggests either "a plurality of times" or "a number of times". Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takimoto, United States Patent Number 6,202,092.

5. Referring to system claim 1, device claim 7, apparatus claim 13, and method claims 17 and 23, Takimoto teaches:

an image forming device (a printer) including a history information storage means for storing history information obtained by an image processing executed a plurality of number of

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times by said image forming device and including a user identification information of a user who used said image forming device, an operating mode of said image forming device and a number of sheets discharged from said image forming device (see figure 4, element 54). With respect to each user, a statistical information managing portion in the printer's memory stores historical information including the number of printed pages and the number of times special printing functions have been used (see column 4, lines 6-11 and column 6, lines 32-41).

Takimoto does not explicitly teach:

an information processing apparatus including history information acquisition means for transmitting a history information acquisition job to said image forming device and for acquiring said history information stored by said history information storage and storage means for storing said history information acquired by said history information acquisition means as a paper discharge counter table for each operating mode of said image forming device, wherein said image forming device further includes transfer means for transferring said history information in accordance with said history information acquisition job to said image processing apparatus.

Takimoto does teach a printer (figure 4, element 54) and the server computer (figure 1, element 22d), having statistical information managing portions that store historical information and updates the paper discharge counter tables in the security database for each operating mode.

Takimoto also teaches a networked structure between the printer and server computer (see figure 4, elements 42 and 51). Using those elements, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide history information acquisition and transfer means across the network from the printer's statistical information managing portion to

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the server computer's statistical information managing portion. One would have been motivated to do so because communicating the history information from the printer to the server would ensure that the security databases remain accurate and updated thus improving the efficiency of the system.

Takimoto also does not explicitly teach a clearing means for clearing said history information stored by said history information storing means when said history information is transferred to said information processing apparatus. Takimoto does teach a resetting means to reset the authority of each user's account (see column 7, lines 45-46). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to also reset or clear the history information stored in the statistical managing portion of the printer when user account's on the server are reset in order to prevent the chances of incorrect history information being sent to the server.

6. Referring to claims 2, 8, 14, 18, and 24 Takimoto teaches wherein said operating mode includes at least one of a paper size, a one-side/double-side printing mode, a toner color, and a paper type (see column 3, lines 17-20 and figures 3a and 3b).

7. Referring to claim 3, 9, 15, 19, and 25, Takimoto does not explicitly teach:

a) job receiving means for receiving said history information acquisition job transmitted from said information processing apparatus;

b) transmission means for transmitting said stored history information according to said history information acquisition job received from said job receiving means.

However, Takimoto does teach network adapters in the printer and server computer (see figure 4, elements 51 and 42). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time

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the invention was made to utilize the network to receive history information acquisition jobs as well as transmitting information according to the job for the same reasons as stated supra.

8. Referring to claim 4, 10, and 20, Takimoto does not explicitly teach wherein said image forming device comprises notification means for notifying said information processing apparatus of an amount of said history information stored by said history information acquisition means. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have implemented this within the system of Takimoto because it would provide a more efficient means of communication between the printer and server computer.

9. Referring to claim 5, 11, and 21, Takimoto does not explicitly teach wherein said notification means notifies said information processing apparatus when said amount of history information reaches a predetermined amount. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have implemented this within the system of Takimoto because it would provide a more efficient means of communication between the printer and server computer.

10. Referring to claims 6, 12, 16, 22, and 26, Takimoto teaches wherein said image forming device includes at least one of a printer function, a copying function, a facsimile function, and a scanner function. The system of Takimoto has a printer as a image forming device that provides a printer function (see figure 1, element 3).

### ***Response to Arguments***

11. Applicant's arguments filed 06/13/03, paper number 8, have been full considered but they are not persuasive.

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12. Applicant's arguments with respect to the independent claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. In the remarks, on page 11-12, Applicant argues that:

"Takimoto's printer merely sends the print data to the server. Takimoto does not disclose or suggest anywhere sending or transmitting history information from the printer to the server or even seeking history information from the printer by the server, let alone sending history information obtained by image processing executed a plurality of number of times from the printer to the server. Moreover, Takimoto fails to teach or suggest storing the history information in the printer, let alone clearing the storage in the printer upon transferring the historical information to the server."

However, in view of the new grounds of rejection necessitated by Applicant's amendment, Takimoto has taught the above limitations as discussed above and therefore, this argument is moot.

### *Conclusion*

13. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Justin Knapp whose telephone number is (703) 308-6132. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri 9 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on (703) 308-3301. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Justin Knapp  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2182

August 21, 2003

  
KIM HUYNH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

8/25/03